

### **REMARKS**

The undersigned attorney thanks Examiner Blau for his careful review of this patent application. Reconsideration of the preset application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the claims in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 18 - 23 were pending in the application. Claim 18 has been amended. New claims 24 – 27 have been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 18 - 27 will be pending in the application.

#### **Claims 18 – 23 Are Not Rendered Obvious in View of The Cited References**

In paragraph 3, the Office Action rejected claims 18 - 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,330,187 to Schmidt (hereinafter “*Schmidt*”) in view of Great Britain published patent application No. 2,331,249 to Kosmatka (herein “*Kosmatka*”). The Examiner has provided a detailed statement for the basis of the rejection of every claim. For the sake of conciseness, the Examiner’s statements will not be repeated here. However, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of amended Claim 18 and all claims that depend there from are s patentable over the prior art and it is requested that the rejection of claims 18-29 be removed.

*Schmidt* describes a cavity-back iron golf club that has two intersecting recess projecting to the rear proximate to the periphery of the face portion to define a front wall. The two recesses include a forwardly and rearwardly extending main recess and an undercut recess located directly rearwadly of the front wall and extending laterally outward from the forward most extent of the main recess toward *at least two areas*, including the top wall, the bottom wall or sole, the toe region, and the heel region. Typically, the undercut recess portions associated with the walls are elongated directionally between the toe and heel portions, over the major length of the iron golf club head. This redistributes metal toward *both the upper and lower* peripheries of the head and projecting rearwardly to enhance the anti-twist of the golf club. The undercuts on both the top and bottom periphery are believed to achieve a delayed momentum transfer from the wall portions to the front wall and face.

*Kosmatka* describes an iron golf club head that has a contoured back surface that has varying thicknesses such that the regions of the face that are expected to experience the highest levels of internal loads are thickest, while those areas that are expected to experience the lowest

levels of internal loads are thinnest. The contoured back surface contains a number of regions of varying thicknesses such that the club face generally thins out at the face/top wall intersection region approaching the toe and the face/top wall intersection region approaching the heel. In general the contoured regions follow along a vertical stiffening region and a horizontal stiffening region, which approximate an upside down "T" such that the cross bar of the "T" lies along the face/bottom wall intersection region and the upright leg or the "T" lies along the central vertical axis.

The invention of amended Claim 18 describes an iron golf club head that contains a single cavity portion, a toe portion to a heel portion, a face portion, and a sole portion. The sole portion contains a groove that extends along the face portion on a surface in the cavity portion. The face portion contains a ball hitting portion that has a thickness that is greater than the thickness of a top edge side portion of the face portion that is located between the ball hitting portion and the top edge portion of the golf club. Additionally, the ball hitting portion is at least as thick as a thickness of a sole side portion of the face portion that is located between the ball hitting portion and the sole portion that extends along the groove. The golf club head also consists of a single projected wall portion that is offset from said face portion that has a length along the first axis that is less than the length of the cavity.

Each and every element of the claimed invention, and well as a motivation or suggestion to combine the elements, must be found in the references to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP §2142. Neither *Schmidt* nor *Kosmatka* describe, teach, or suggest an iron golf club head that consists of a single projected wall portion offset from said face portion. In contrast, the golf club described by *Schmidt* requires *two recesses*: a forwardly and rearwardly extending main recess and an undercut recess located directly rearwardly of the front wall. Furthermore, the undercut recess must extend laterally outwardly from the forward most extent of the main recess *toward at least two* of the following regions: i) the top wall; ii) the bottom wall or sole; iii) the toe region; and iv) the heel region. Since the undercut recess must extend laterally outwardly from the forward most extent of the main recess toward at least two regions, the undercut recess forms at least two extended wall projections.

Although *Schmidt* describes that slots may be provided proximate to the corners of the loop defined by the rearward projections to form isolated projections, FIG. 17 still illustrates that there must be at least two rearward projections, and more preferably four rearward projections

around the perimeter of the cavity. In contrast, the iron golf club head of amended claim 18 *consists of a single projected wall portion*. Therefore, each and every element of amended claim 18 is not described, taught, or suggested by the cited references either separately or in combination.

Furthermore, there is not motivation to combine the references. Rather, the references teach away from the claimed invention. The benefit disclosed by *Schmidt* include the “distribution of weight toward the upper and lower peripheries of the head, and projecting rearwardly at 24 and 25, for enhancing anti-twist of the head during stroking and ball impact.” *Schmidt*, col. 3, lines 19. This redistribution of weight provides a somewhat delayed momentum transfer from the rearward projections to the front wall and front face by allowing the forward momentum to be transferred as a forward wave to pass around and through the upper and lower rearwardly projections, thereby achieving an enlarged sweet spot without increasing the vertical dimensions of the iron golf club head. Such momentum transfer is visualized in the form of a forward wave that passes around and through both the undercut recesses at the top line and the sole segment of the golf club. Clearly, these benefits are only achievable if the golf club head contains at least two undercuts recess, and therefore at least two projected wall portions.

Because none of the references describe, teach, or suggest a cavity back golf club head iron head that consists of a single projected wall portion offset from the face portion having a length along an axis extending from the heel of the golf club to the toe of the golf club that is less than the cavity portion along the same axis Claim 18 is patentable over the cited references. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 18 be withdrawn.

The foregoing arguments apply to claims 19 -23, which depend upon claim 18 and are also patentable over the cited references. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

#### **New Claim 24-27 Are Fully Supported by the Specification**

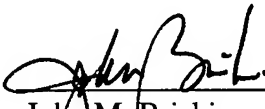
The present application has been amended by adding claims 24 - 27. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter recited by the new claims is fully supported by the specification in the present application. It is further submitted that the new claims are patentable over the references of record, and allowance of these claims is petitioned.

**CONCLUSION**

It is respectfully submitted that claims 18 - 27 are in condition for allowance and that each point raised in the Official Action with regard to these claims has been fully addressed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejections to claims 18 - 23 be withdrawn and that claims 18 - 27 be processed to issuance in accordance with Patent Office Business.

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please contact John Briski at 404.885.3141.

Respectfully submitted,

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